

THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

190: STORM THE GATES

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PREVIOUSLY:

While repairing a train, Eugene and Stephanie were trapped by a herd of walkers. Only through Eugene's ingenuity—and a fire extinguisher—were they able to escape unscathed. Laura's daring daytime prison break of Mercer forces Rick to help Governor Milton escape from the Commonwealth before her own guards turn on her. But the people of the Commonwealth aren't as supportive of the coup as Mercer hoped, and he appeals to Rick once more to secure the community's trust.



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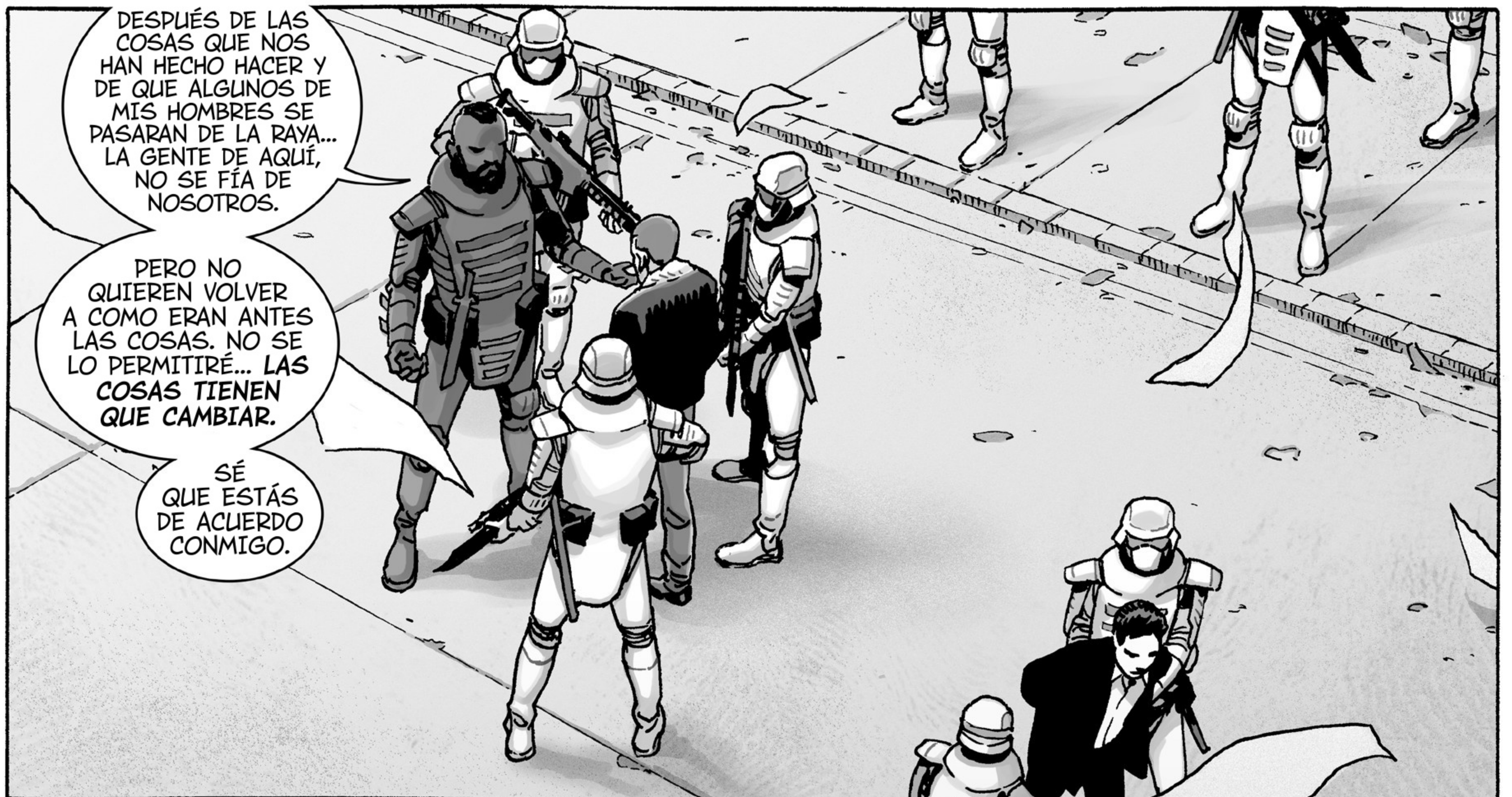
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ELLA TE PARECE AMABLE...
PORQUE ES AMABLE
CONTIGO. TE RESPETA...
PIENSA QUE ERES UNO
DE LOS SUYOS...
DE LA ÉLITE.

Y
PUEDE QUE
SEAS DE LA
ÉLITE... PERO
NO ERES
COMO ELLA.

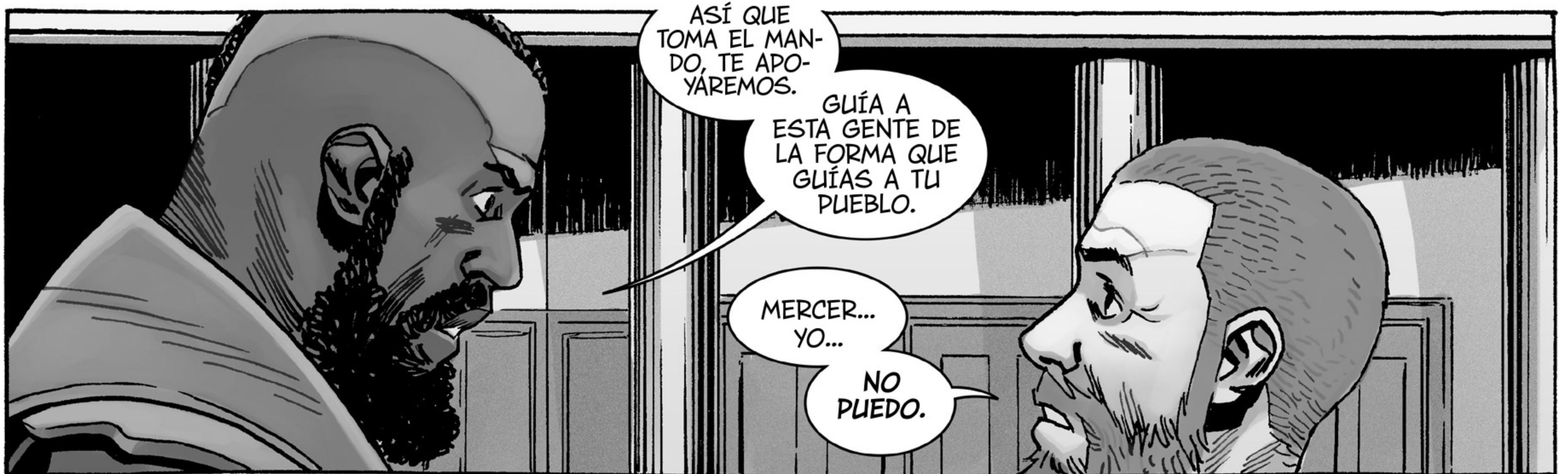
TÚ TE PREOCUPAS
POR LA GENTE. HAS
VISTO COMO ES ELLA...
ESTE UNIFORME QUE NOS
HACEN LLEVAR--PARA ELLA,
SIGNIFICA QUE SOMOS
PRESCINDIBLES.



DESPUÉS DE LAS
COSAS QUE NOS
HAN HECHO HACER Y
DE QUE ALGUNOS DE
MIS HOMBRES SE
PASARAN DE LA RAYA...
LA GENTE DE AQUÍ,
NO SE FÍA DE
NOSOTROS.

PERO NO
QUIEREN VOLVER
A COMO ERAN ANTES
LAS COSAS. NO SE
LO PERMITIRÉ... LAS
COSAS TIENEN
QUE CAMBIAR.

SÉ
QUE ESTÁS
DE ACUERDO
CONMIGO.



ASÍ QUE
TOMA EL MAN-
DO, TE APO-
YAREMOS.

GUÍA A
ESTA GENTE DE
LA FORMA QUE
GUÍAS A TU
PUEBLO.

MERCER...
YO...

NO
PUEDO.



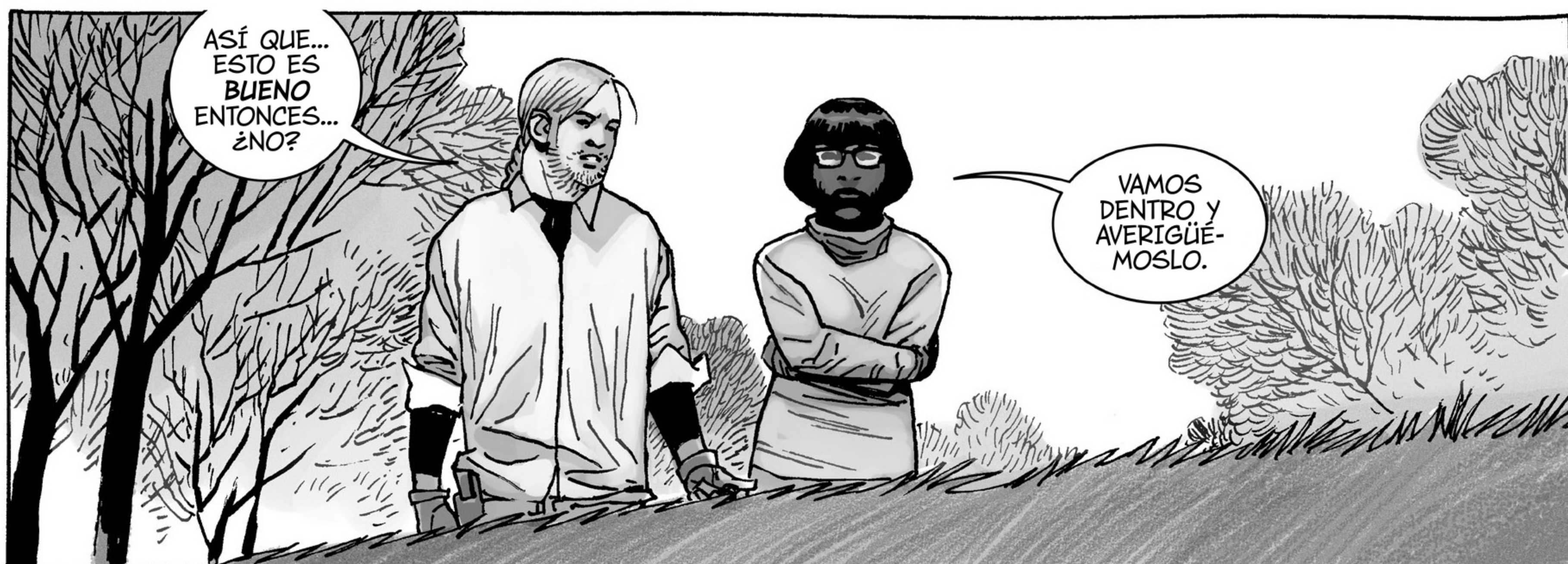
HE VIVIDO ESTA
CLASE DE COSAS. AQUÍ
LA GENTE APENAS SABE
QUIÉN SOY. DI LA MITAD
DE UN DISCURSO DELANTE
DE ELLOS--Y FUE EN FAVOR
DE LA GOBERNADORA
MILTON. PUEDE QUE ME
HAYAN VISTO POR LAS
CALLES... QUE HAYAN
OÍDO ALGUNA
ANÉCDOTA...

PERO ESO
NO BASTA.

LAS COSAS
TIENEN QUE
CAMBIAR... PERO
NO ASÍ. VA LLEVAR
MÁS TIEMPO.



ESO
ES ALGO
QUE NO
TENEMOS.





¡ELODIE!

¡SEÑORA!



NECESITAMOS ESTAS CALLES DESPEJADAS, SEÑORA.

VUELVA A SU CASA DE INMEDIATO.



ESTOY TRATANDO DE ENCONTRAR A MI HIJA.

TE JURO QUE LUEGO IRÉ A CASA.



VOY A HACER LA VISTA GORDA-- PORQUE TE AGRADEZCO LO QUE HICISTE.

PERO DATE PRISA.

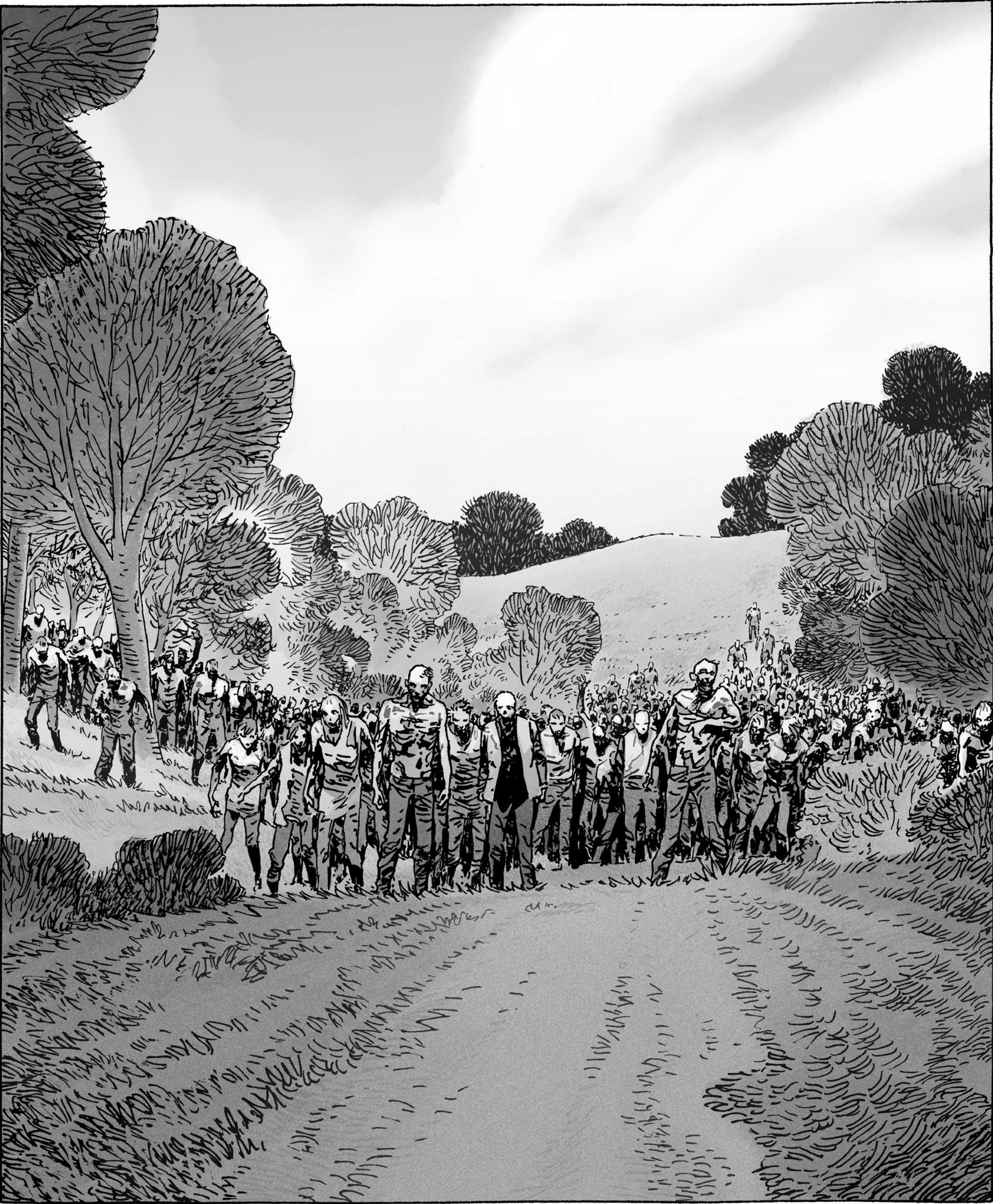


KNOCK! KNOCK!

¡SOY MICHONNE-- ABRE!

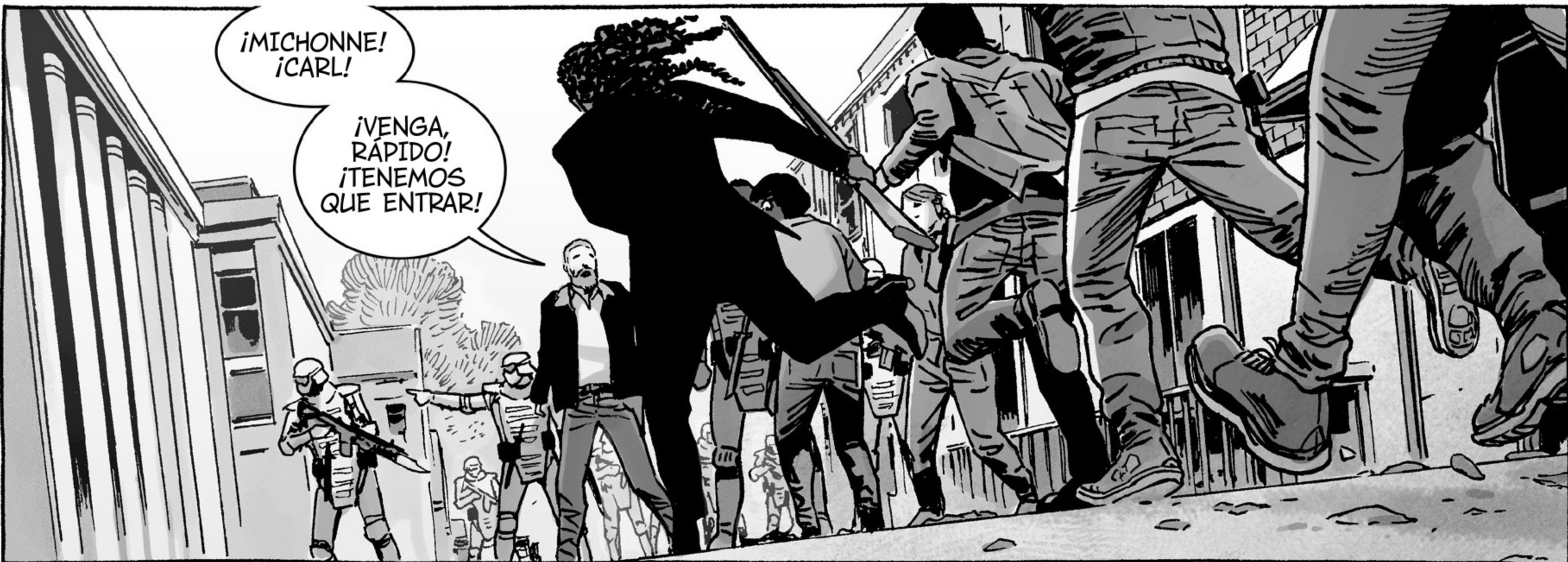






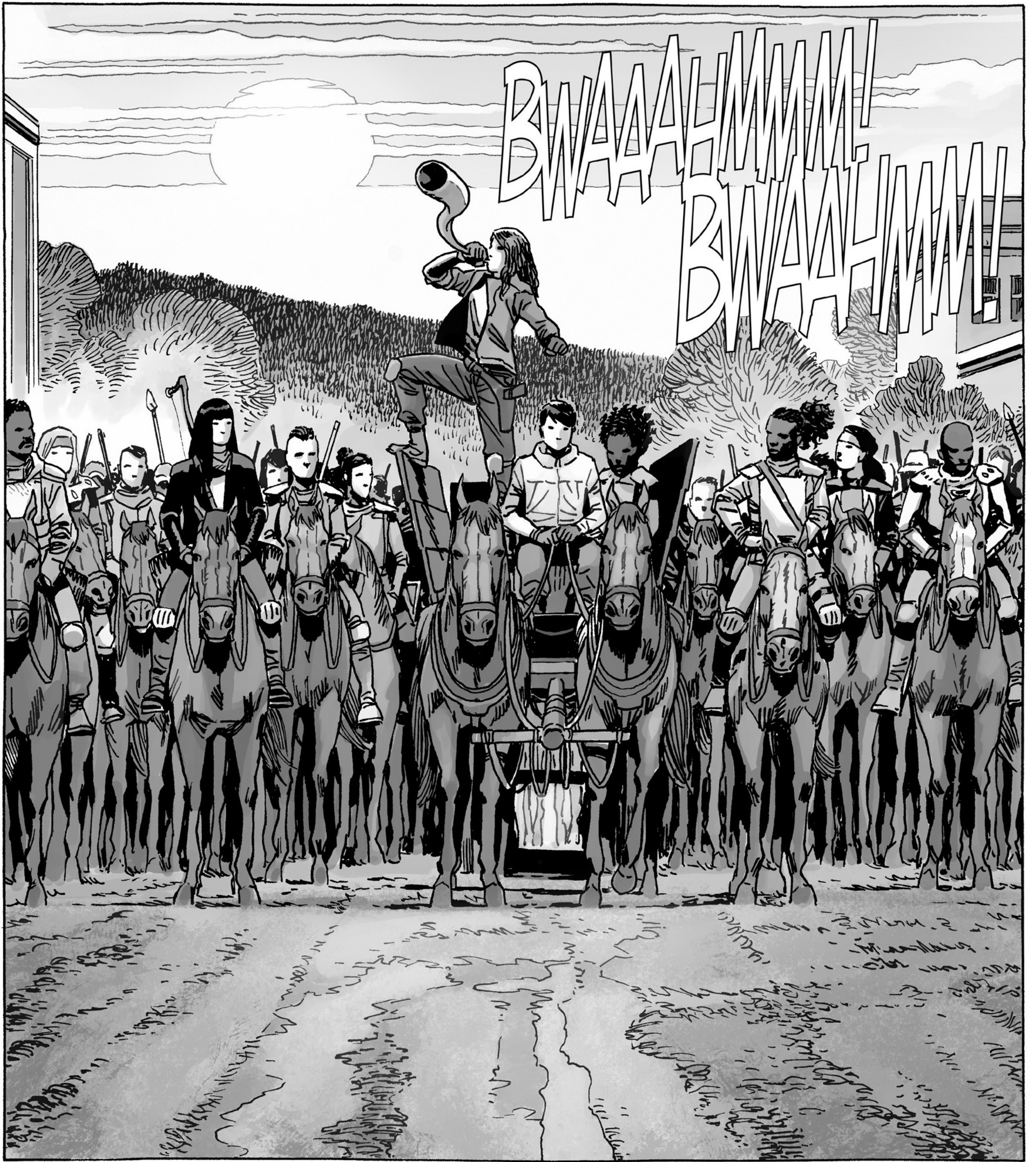








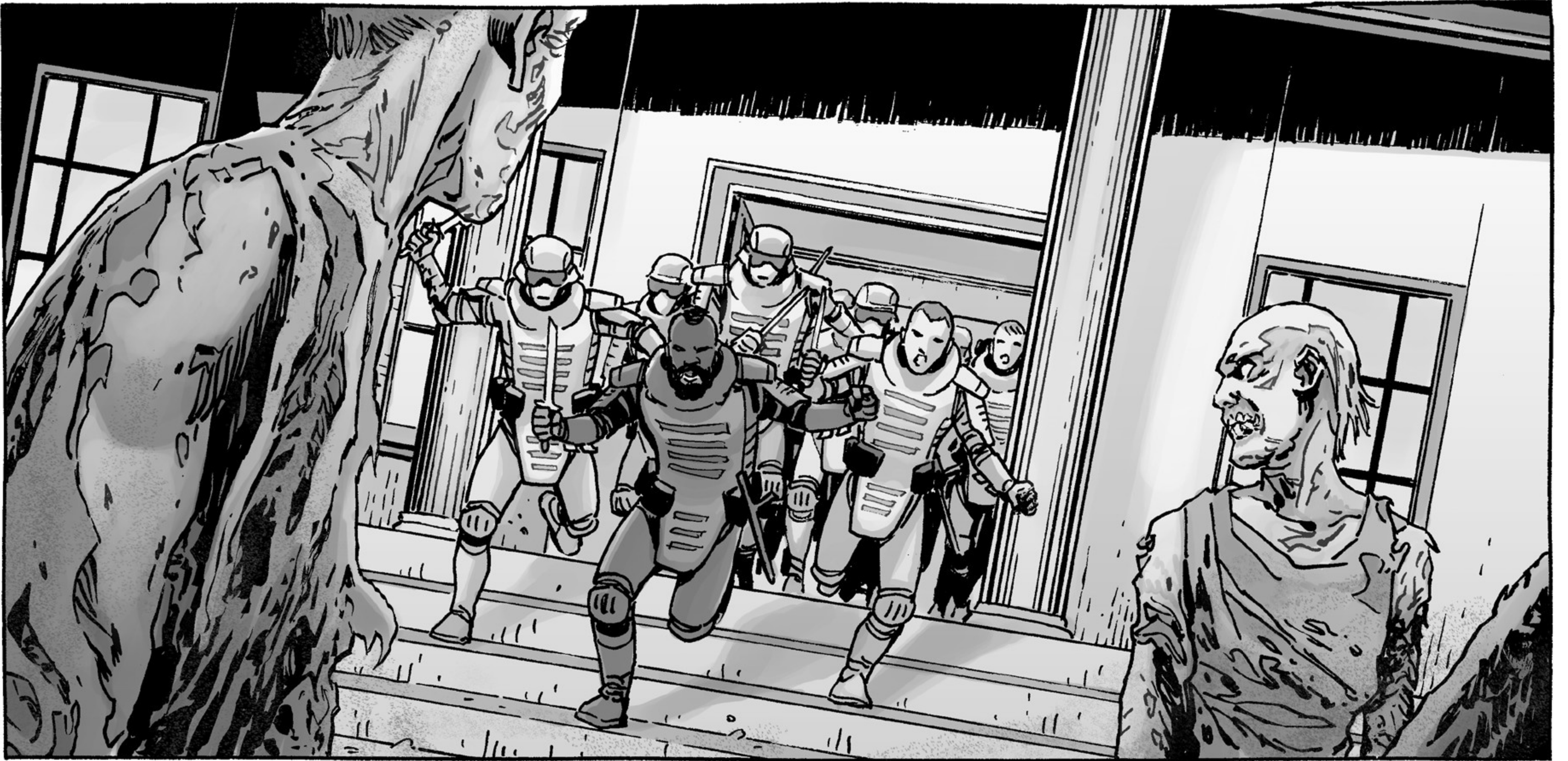


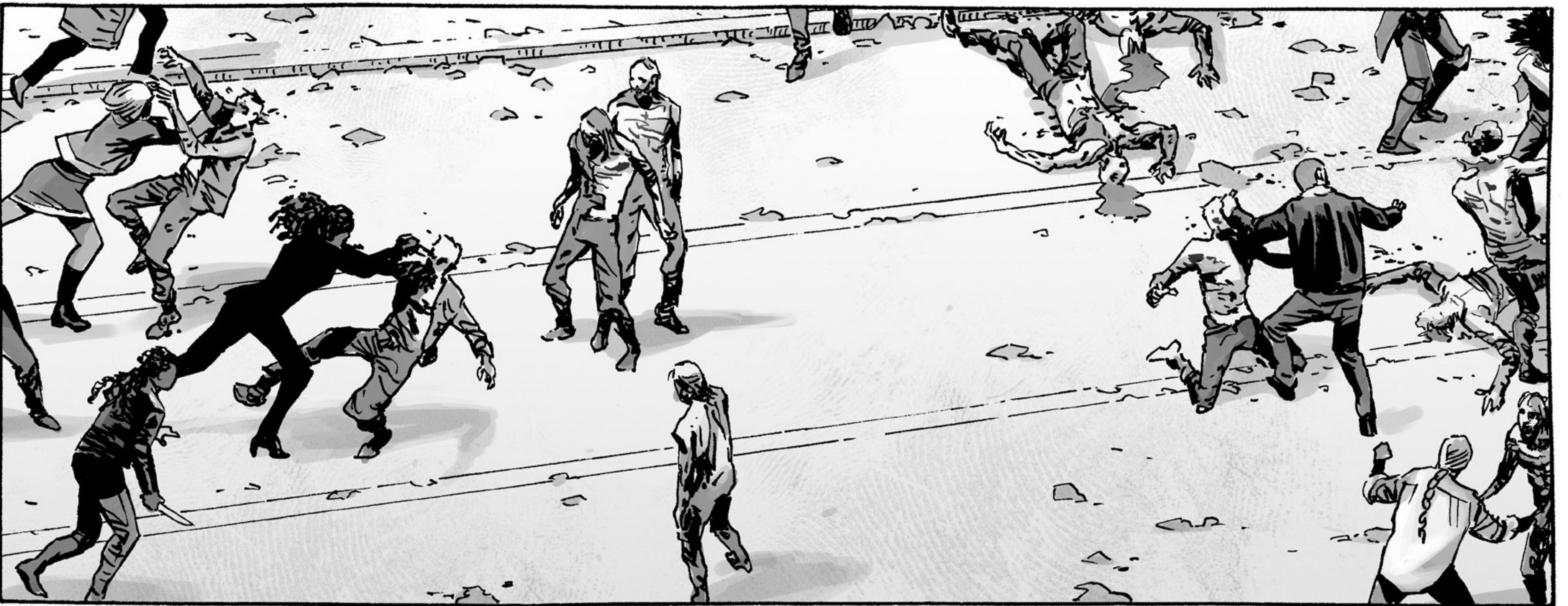






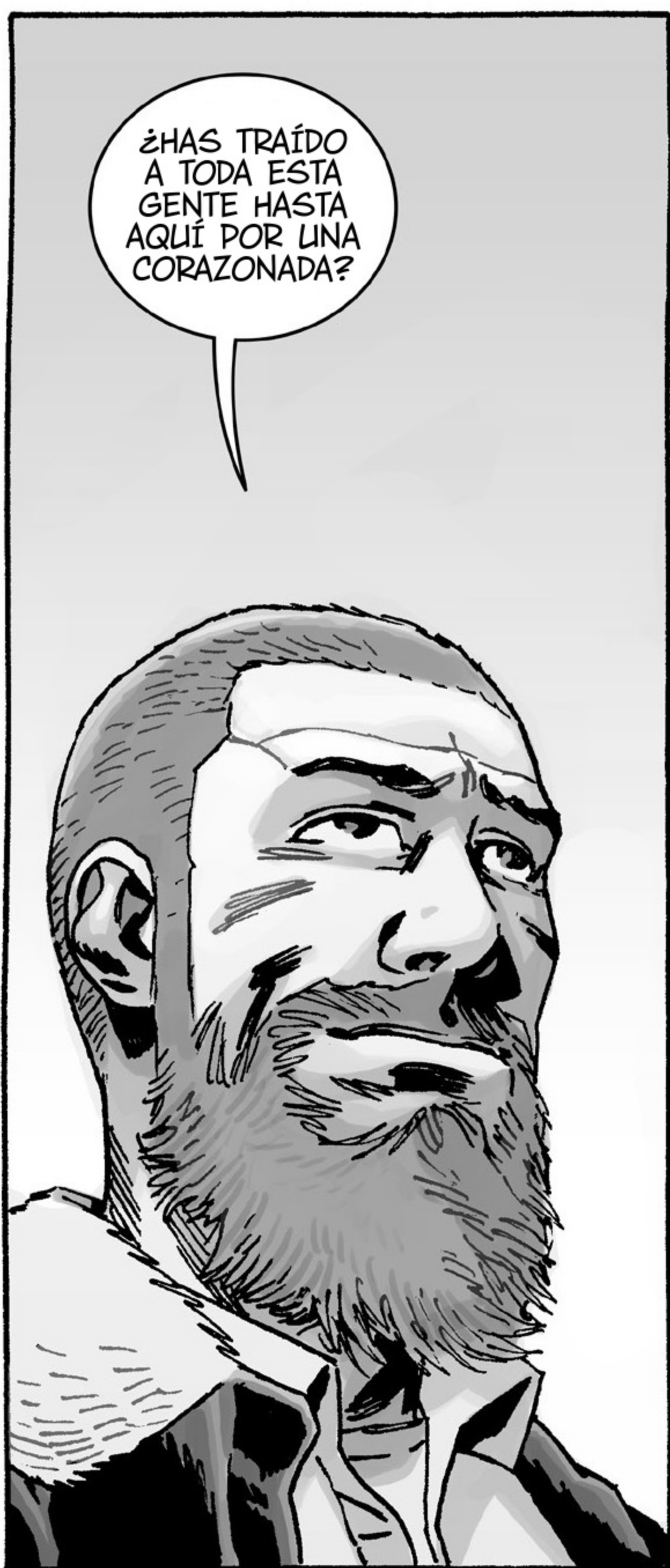




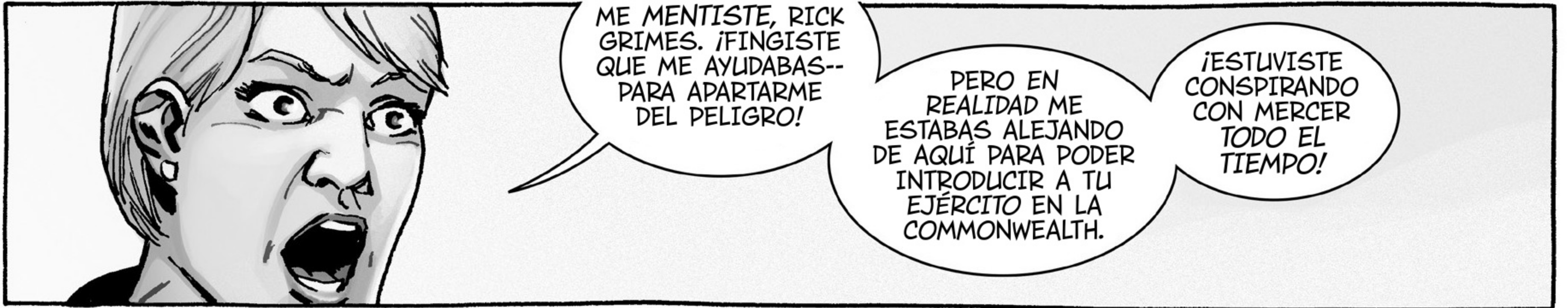




HA...UH,
TENIDO DÍAS
MEJORES.







¡¡ATACAD!!



LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

The war that Rick has been trying to avoid with his recent actions? Well, looks like we have now reached the point of no return as the new Governor is behaving a lot like the old Governor. By the way, this is Sean, and I'm excited to dive into these letters.

Okay, Sean... but first, this is Robert and I just wanted to say I'm VERY excited about where this series is headed, and we've got some monumental episodes ahead of us... so buckle up, dear readers. There's also all kinds of other things going on in the Walking Dead universe, but Sean really wants to dive into these letters, so just, you know... use the internet to find out about all the tv shows, video games and lunch boxes that are coming out in the near future. Don't forget (the recently redesigned) WalkingDead.com can tell you all you need to know!

Now let's get to these letters!

Gentlemen,

I have a technical question: most, if not all, characters seem to carry knives which, of course, makes total sense. I certainly would. However, I'm curious what "super metal" these knives are made from, why has it never been mentioned, and could it be related to source of the zombies?

I, too, have often wondered about these super knives, and I like where this letter is headed.

The knives must be made from some amazing alloy considering how many times we've seen a character stab a corpse in the head, either to (re) kill it or prevent it from rising in the first place. I'm not talking about stabbing through an opening in the skull like an eye socket. I'm talking about ramming the blade right through the forehead or temple. I believe this happens way more in the tv show than the comic, but I don't have specific references.

Correct. We're all on the same page here. We get it.

I'm assuming y'all are city kids, because any farm boy learns early on during butchering: bones are hard. That's probably why our ancestors made tools out of bone. But, just try cutting through the bone in a steak and you'll see: bones are hard.

My buddy theorizes that zombie bones soften and rot, but I see two problems with that explanation. First, numerous characters have taken a knife to the skull immediately after death to prevent rising. Unless living characters are all suffering from skull degeneration, this theory doesn't hold up. And, if the entire surviving population is suffering from Squishy Skull Syndrome (SSS), then it seems like that would have come up in the plot by now. (At least, everyone should be wearing helmets!) Second, I think I may have mentioned: bones are hard. They don't rot so fast and persist in the outdoors for years. It's quite common in the back country to find whitened bones of a skeleton that are still rock hard years after the soft tissue of the unfortunate original creature has long since vanished. I've come upon more than a few

animal skeletons in the wilds, and not one was fragile enough that I could shove a knife through the skull.

Ok, crossing off walker osteoporosis...

Therefore, the knives in TWD must be some special, Uru-style magic in order to penetrate skulls so easily, and that some like an interesting, unexplored subplot.

Sincerely,
Tom the Country Boy

Vibranium. Alexandria forever!

Thanks for the letter, Tom! You're a quite an astute WALKING DEAD reader! While it is VERY difficult to stab someone in the skull, it is, we must all admit, possible. People get stabbed in the skull all the time. It takes a tremendous amount of force and a tremendously sharp blade, true. What you may not realize is that everyone in the Walking Dead universe, TV and comic (and games, lunchboxes, etc) train their stabbing muscles RIGOROUSLY. Much like swinging a baseball bat uses a unique set of muscles that aren't often used to that degree or in unison in normal everyday life, a special training regimen is required to get people in "head-stabbing shape". These people look normal, but I assure you they are conditioned to a near superhuman degree that allows them to stab heads as if they were melons.

So not special knives... special HUMANS. The WALKING DEAD way!

Dear guys that created this addiction of mine:

Didn't expect at all this reaction to Dwight's death by the fans. Was an important character?, yes. Was the military leader?, Yes. Was a total douchebag? FUCK YEAH! I mean he was a badass for sure but he killed the actual Alpha Badass, Abraham, so fuck him. I hope this somehow opens the door for Negan get back to the comic.

Magic 8-ball says: All signs point to motherfucking no.

By now you probably think we're just fucking with you over Negan returning, and we're not. Not on purpose. He's just not part of the story we're telling right now.

So far, loving Princess, a kick-ass lady with a great attitude! Knowing that she has a really rough past give her character new depths that we can all enjoy and also anticipate a great relationship between her and Carl. I didn't decide if i like or not Pamela, too political to this savage world, and her son is one of the most irritating character created so far at the series, remind me of Tyresse's daughter's boyfriend (loooong time ago).

Spot-on comparison! Chris was the WORST. Gregory still stands head-and-shoulders above everyone as biggest TWD douchebag, but Sebastian is definitely shooting up the power rankings with every appearance.

The Commonwealth arc is going great, is weird but satistactory seeing Rick not in control, this community is so big, that his opininion seems not important, like shit is happening all around him and he cant fix it, and like the control freak that he is, must be drive him crazy. That scene with Mercer in jail getting real with Pamela, her face after hear all of those truths, just priceless! Hope Laura and George free him and start some kind of revolution that ends up with Pamela’s son death.

To sum up, fuck Dwight, bring Negan back, I love Princess, Mercer is the new Abraham and Rick’s about to lose it.

So who puts an arrow through Mercer’s eye in this scenario?

Now back to wait a whole other month

Bye guys!

Daniel Rojas Gonzalez
Chile

Thanks for writing in, Daniel! And, holy heck, you got pretty close with your predictions there. Let’s see if you guess Sebastian’s fate or not!

Hi Everybody!

I was actually surprised at myself while reading 188, because well, a herd of zombies attacked our group. But what surprised me is I was actually thinking one of these beloved main characters could’ve gotten bit, and that’s I really love about this book -- no one is off limits. Of course they weren’t harmed, so everyone was happy and exhaled a sigh of relief... until the last page. I have to say, the only guy I’m really pulling for in this book is Eugene so I hope he’s still alive by the time this letter is printed.

What issue is this again?

I do have to say that I’m happy Dwight is dead. He was weak, never wanted to lead but always wanted to start shit with the leaders. He reminded me of people at certain jobs where they complain about how things are run but have no solutions, they just want people out of power, as if that’ll change anything. I’m wondering, if the Commonwealth is supposed to be civilized, why can’t they hold an election? It seems like they have a dictatorship going on and once what’s-her-face is out of power her son will take over. They managed to restore all old roles and ways of life but not elections and term lengths? I mean, that would be an incredibly boring comic, but it seems like they would’ve thought of that if they wanted to make things like they were before the dead started walking.

True. What kind of game is ol’ girl Pam running here?

Lastly, The Commonwealth is in Ohio, they have a football stadium there. I’m just going to assume that those are the Cleveland Browns and they finally won an NFL championship. Although I could see the Browns being the Browns and losing to a team of walkers or whatever.

I would say that the only circumstances that would lead to a Browns’ Superbowl would have to be a zombie apocalypse. That the team’s history until this point has pretty much been a zombie apocalypse means maybe Baker Mayfield will take them to the promised land soon... but I’d still bet on an outbreak happening first.

Reminder, kids: don’t romanticize losers. It’ll only lead to heartbreak and unmet expectations.

Update: after originally writing this, the Browns traded for Odell Beckham Jr. Congrats on winning the pre-season, Browns fans! That’s ALMOST as good as a Superbowl!

Speaking of the dead coming back to life... Happy Easter!

Tyler Okrzesik
Milwaukee, WI

Tuned out of this letter because of all the specific sports talk. I’m LOST! Next!

Dear Kirkman,

I blitzed through the available material of your comic after ordering the first volume in the summer of 2017. I quite enjoyed it and tried to limit myself to one volume per week, this broke down and by the end of the summer I was caught up. The comic WAS great, you took us through the stages of the apocalypse with interesting characters.

Andrew... bro... I’ve read this letter before, I know where it’s going. So, take it easy, and let’s not say something either of us is going to regret.

In that time there was of course many silly/ unrealistic decisions but hey it isn’t real life and the general story was compelling. However, we are now left with a string of nonsense decisions with no plot to go on. The apocalypse is over, people are re-building if I wanted to watch a government breakdown I would tune into any international news station and find one.

Domestic news is well versed in breakdowns as well.

I mean you are just going through the motions and it is boring. Every new plot twist just seems a misguided attempt to keep the reader interested without actually creating any meaningful story or dialogue. Dwight died, it was unexpected, congrats. My interest with his death begins and ends with that comment. It is time to stop dragging your comic through the mud and just end it with a sense of wonder while you still can.

Andrew

My main issue with this letter is I’m not sure what you’d actually like to see. What was the appeal that made you plow through almost 30 volumes in one summer vs. what you’re reading now? I’m biased as all hell, but it’s incredibly rude to suggest that this team is just going through the motions. That you don’t like the results is one thing, in 16 years you’re not going to like all the stories, but please don’t shit on the hard work it’s taken to sustain such a run.

I feel like the problem here (and I could be wrong and we just suck now, who knows) is that when you read 30 volumes in a few months... you blaze through the story. You may not like a 6 or 12 issue chunk, but you blow through it in a week and the next volume pulls you back in. This book is constantly slowing down and speeding up. Reading it all in one chunk makes it seem like a rollercoaster. But when you catch up... and go back to 12 issues a year... it’s like the rollercoaster is suddenly in slow motion. "It used to be so fast and varied, but now I’m stuck in this corkscrew and I’m sideways and my neck is sore and this ride should just end!"

I don’t know, we’ve been getting letters like this from time to time for YEARS... even when

we were in storylines that are now considered some of our best.

But again... I could be wrong, and maybe while I feel like I'm getting better as a writer, I'm actually getting worse! Anything is possible. Charlie and the rest of the gang just keep getting better though, so hopefully they're picking up my slack!

Dear Walking Dead Team

First of all, thank you for the amazing start(-ish) of every month you give us. This comic is truly a joy to read. With that out of the way, two things:

First, how silent are your walkers? They seem(ed) to do an awful lot of grunting, and big herds moving can't be that silent either. How come no one in this book seems to notice big groups of them, until they are right up in their faces chewing on them? Did all their gun firing turn them half deaf?

It's the unfortunate side effect of using magic Vibranium knives--they dampen the sound of approaching walkers.

Sometimes, when you're, say, working on a TRAIN... you don't hear them approaching until they're too close. But we've had characters comment on the fact that approaching herds sound like the ocean. They do make sounds.

Second thing. How is the walker population doing? Even if just one percent of humanity survived, that would mean that everyone would only have to kill ninety-nine walkers to get completely rid of them. We are many years into the story now with at least our group more than pulling their weight - where are they all still coming from?

I don't have a smartass answer for this. But it's not like we're seeing millions of walkers every issue. In fact, one of the most common complaints we get (see below) is that there aren't ENOUGH walkers showing up, so... the walker population's doing alright.

YEAH!! (That's my smartass answer.)

Oh and as a bonus, if you ever need a way out of this mess that is the commonwealth: Last panel, sunset, the silhouette of Negan, grocery bag in his hand, baguette over his shoulder, saying something like "Looks like it's time to save these people". It will be a hit.

He's learned how to bake baguettes?! That's like instant redemption. Because you know folks are just eating dry, seedy hippy bread, and anyone who can make a killer baguette can be my boss any day.

Cheers and love,
Lars, Switzerland

Lars! You've won me over! Negan is back next issue!! BAGUETTES!!!!

i'm not even sure this is kirkman's page but i will post a comment anyway in the hopes that it will reach him. the walking dead comic book is one of three favorite zombie comics

What are the other two?

Yeah, I want to know, too!

i love everything about it from the character evolution to the rebuilding of civilization (what if china beats us?)

If you're interested in what's going on in China, be sure to check out TWD: TYPHOON, our upcoming novel by Wesley Chu, out this Fall from Skybound Books. Wes is setting up an incredible new community that's dealing with the apocalypse in ways we haven't seen in the comic.

Or anywhere else! It's going to be great!

the ONLY aspect that keeps this book from being my favorite comic is the zombie aspect. i have been here since the beginning and i know robert told us the zombies were not the focus. i get that but as a semi-zombie book, i feel there are important tropes the comic should have more of...1)zombies, occasionally, as the main threat. an homage to notld, for example, where a few choice characters have to board up a house and , actually, fear the ghouls outside that are banging on the security. 2) zombies that are shown eating intestines. this is an important aspect of any zombie tale. the comic has only shown this three times, i think. i agree with adlard that some things are scarier when not shown but even notld, dawn, and day take the time to show feasting. 3) fresh zombies. i love that adlard is showcasing new cities where the old civilization has been covered by moss, vines, etc. but i can't believe ALL walkers are that decayed and similar looking. i would like to see the nicotero approach where many walkers are creatively unique. three favorite zombie comics of all time for me and walking dead is 98.5% my favorite. if these aspects were utilized more often, w.d. would be 100%. oh, and creative ways for the zombies to kill their victims as in the television series when they got noah from the rotating door, etc. yes, i desire more world exploring, conversations, passage of time, recreating a real govt, etc. and i love that the zombies are not always the main threat but this IS a zombie book and , recently, it hasn't felt like one. in fact, the zombies feel like an afterthought or slight irritation. thank-you for your time. SINCERELY,

matthew cashel (a man that really wants to see some additional walker/splatter focus. PLEASE!

I think we got a LIIIIITTLE interesting zombie action with Eugene's fire extinguisher trick. But really, the zombie aspect doesn't interest me all that much after all these years. Seeing people caught by zombies and eaten isn't fun for me. And narratively... for people to have lived this long, they need to be smart enough to avoid those kinds of traps... so that's why it doesn't happen as often.

For better or worse, this book has evolved past intestine-eating. I'm not saying it'll NEVER happen again... but it'll never be the focus. I said all I wanted to say about avoiding and getting eaten by zombies in the first 50 issues or so.

See you in May. Also: war--what is it good for?

Also, turn the page and check out these preview pages for EXCELLENCE, our new series by Khary Randolph and Brandon Thomas. A secret society of magicians guides the world with unseen hands... but at what cost? I guarantee it'll be one of the most exciting new series you'll read this year. Hit stores this May!

-Sean Mackiewicz

EXCELLENCE IS EXCELLENT! READ THAT BOOK!!!!

See you all back here next month!

-Robert Kirkman